

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

June 2002



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Decrease in Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Provides Seasonal Respite in May for the Bay Area

The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates for the Wisconsin Bay Area provides basically good news on the area's unemployment rate for the month of May. The unadjusted rate for the region was down one and fourth tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent. "The lowest level in the region for seven months. Then the rate for October 2001 was 4.2 percent.

While the decline in the rate is generally good news for the area, there are some caveats attached to the numbers. Masked by just the percent is the number of workers in the labor force and the number employed. Normally both of these numbers have a tendency to increase between April and May.

However this year the number in the labor force declined in four of the ten counties in the region as well as for the State of Wisconsin. The region had a decline of 200 workers from April to May, while this is not a large decrease, there was an increase of 2,500 in the area's labor force during the same time last year and in 2000 the increase was 4,000.

It is difficult to know all of the reasons that the labor force declined for the month. Part of it may be the slow economy and individuals are discouraged and either not entering the labor market or are leaving it. A more likely reason was the cold and wet month we had during May. Many jobs that occur during May are dependant on the weather. A warm spring will jump start labor force and employment growth, while a cooler, wetter spring will dampen growth.

Although there the number of workers declined between April and May, the number of workers in the Bay Area labor

force was well above last May. The labor force was 6,700 above one year ago with 342,700 workers.

Along with the positive news of the dropping unemployment rate is the increase in the number of workers employed. The number employed in the region increased by 5,000 over the month to 327,000. Nine of the region's ten counties had an increase in the number of employed. Door county had the largest employment increase with an increase of 1,300. This is quite different than the sluggishness of the labor force.

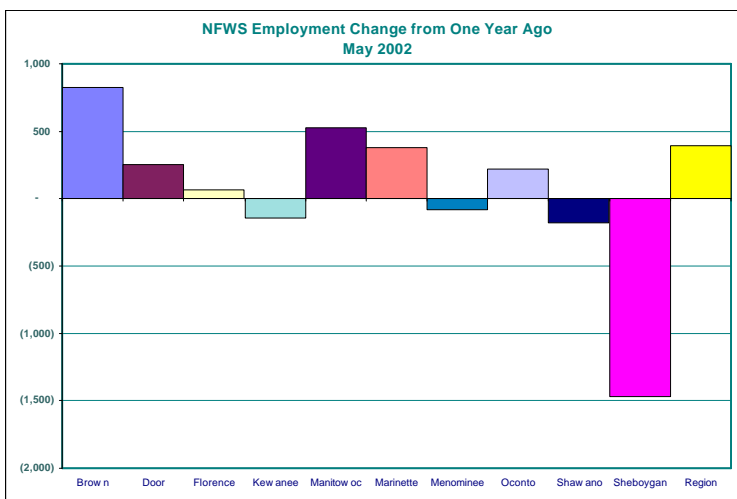
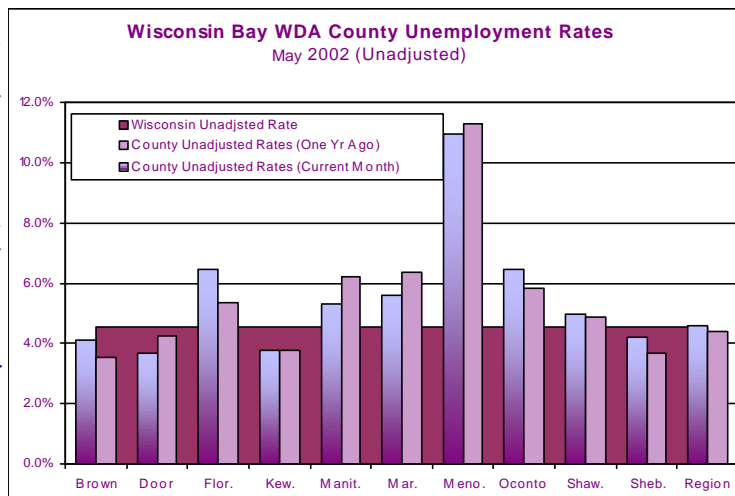
Although the increase in employment is always welcome, much of the increase is seasonal in nature. Much of the employment growth is expected this time of year.

In May, the number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased 5,100 to 316,500.

There was some improvement in the manufacturing sector. Growth in this sector was 200 from March to April, compared to 500 from April to May. However, manufacturing employment is still 2,700 below last May. Construction and retail trade were two of the leaders with increased employment over the month along normal seasonal patterns for northeast Wisconsin. Construction was up 1,200 and retail trade increased 1,300 in May.

Nonfarm wage and salary (NFWS) employment increased 400 over the last twelve months. Green Bay MSA had the largest increase with a gain of 800 followed by Manitowoc at 500. Sheboygan had the largest decline, losing 1,500 jobs, with 1,400 in the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing was down 2,700 in the region to 83,100 jobs.

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## Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates for May

The seasonally adjusted rate made its largest decline of the year, dropping 0.9 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent in the Green Bay MSA. This was 0.5 of a percentage point above May 2001 which was 3.6 percent. The rate in the Sheboygan MSA declined 1.0 of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

The nation's unemployment rate declined 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.8 percent. The rate in the State of Wisconsin declined 0.6 of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
May 2002	Brown	Door	Florn.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	141,400	16,400	1,900	10,900	46,700	22,300	2,400	17,600	20,300	63,000	342,700	3,040,400
Employed	135,600	15,800	1,800	10,500	44,200	21,000	2,100	16,400	19,300	60,300	327,000	2,902,700
Unemployed	5,800	600	100	400	2,500	1,200	300	1,100	1,000	2,600	15,700	137,700
Unemployment rate(%)	4.1%	3.7%	6.5%	3.8%	5.3%	5.6%	10.9%	6.5%	5.0%	4.2%	4.6%	4.5%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	4.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2%	N/A	4.8%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	147,500	14,000	1,300	6,900	39,200	20,600	2,100	10,600	12,600	61,700	316,500	2,844,600
Construction & Mining	8,900	900	100	600	1,800	600	0	600	500	2,500	16,300	129,800
Manufacturing	27,800	2,500	300	2,000	13,700	6,500	0	3,200	2,400	24,600	83,100	564,100
Transportation & Public Util.	10,900	200	0	500	2,300	1,000	0	400	600	1,700	17,700	132,700
Wholesale Trade	7,800	200	0	200	1,000	600	0	100	400	2,000	12,400	138,200
Retail Trade	26,300	3,400	300	1,100	6,100	3,600	100	1,900	2,600	9,100	54,600	505,700
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,400	800	0	300	1,000	600	0	200	400	2,000	15,600	152,100
Services	37,100	4,100	200	1,300	8,700	5,400	0	2,000	2,800	13,000	74,600	794,400
Government	18,200	1,800	300	1,100	4,600	2,400	1,900	2,100	2,900	6,800	42,200	427,500
<b>Change from previous month</b>												
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	-700	1,000	100	100	0	-200	0	-100	-100	200	200	-5,900
Employed	700	1,300	100	300	700	300	0	400	400	800	5,000	30,400
Unemployed	-1,400	-400	0	-100	-700	-500	-100	-500	-500	-600	-4,800	-36,300
Unemployment rate(%)	-1.0%	-2.6%	-2.5%	-1.3%	-1.5%	-2.2%	-3.1%	-2.7%	-2.2%	-1.0%	-1.4%	-1.2%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	-0.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-1.0%	N/A	-0.6%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	1,100	1,300	100	200	700	300	0	300	300	900	5,100	35,100
Construction & Mining	600	0	0	0	200	100	0	100	0	100	1,200	11,600
Manufacturing	200	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	200	500	1,400
Transportation & Public Util.	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	300	1,900
Wholesale Trade	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	1,400
Retail Trade	100	600	0	0	100	100	0	100	100	200	1,300	8,200
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	700
Services	0	600	0	100	200	100	0	100	100	400	1,600	11,500
Government	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	100	-1,700
<b>Change from year ago</b>												
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	4,300	400	100	-200	900	600	-100	700	-100	400	6,700	62,300
Employed	3,400	500	100	-200	1,200	700	0	500	-100	-100	5,800	49,100
Unemployed	900	-100	0	0	-400	-100	0	100	0	-100	800	13,200
Unemployment rate(%)	0.6%	-0.6%	1.1%	0.0%	-0.9%	-0.8%	-0.4%	0.6%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%
Seasonally Adj. Rate (%)	0.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4%	N/A	0.4%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	800	300	100	-100	500	400	-100	200	-200	-1,500	400	1,300
Construction & Mining	900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-300	700	0
Manufacturing	-1,000	0	0	-100	100	0	0	-200	0	-1,400	-2,700	-21,900
Transportation & Public Util.	100	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	400	-3,500
Wholesale Trade	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	400
Retail Trade	800	0	0	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	1,200	3,900
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-500	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-400	2,500
Services	-500	100	0	0	100	300	0	100	-100	100	100	17,100
Government	700	100	0	-100	0	0	-100	200	-100	100	1,000	3,000
* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2001												

Going to be needing Summer Workers? Contact your local Job Center and list your openings on JobNet and the Internet. This free service has a special Seasonal/Summer category to help you find the right person. Call our local office or enter your job listing on the internet at: <https://dws.dwd.state.wi.us/dwewjos/employer>.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

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